

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 PA-03 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8551

INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, IT

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PROVINCIAL LEADERS OF CONFAGRI-
CULTURA, MAY 3

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE

FROM AGATT

SUMMARY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PROVINCIAL LEADERS OF CONFAGRICOL-
TURA, ITALY'S FARM ORGANIZATION OF THE LARGER FARMERS, HELD ON
MAY 3 WAS ADDRESSED BY ITS PRESIDENT DIANA, ALSO BY PRMIN ANDRE-
OTTI, VICE PRES OF EC SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA. AGMIN NATALI AND COPA
PRESIDENT KNOTNERUS IN PRESENCE FONMIN MEDICI, POLITICIANS,
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AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES, AND MANY FARM LEADERS. END SUMMARY.

1. DIANA DELIVERED CONVENTIONAL FARM LEADERS ADDRESS FOLLOWING EARLIER POLICY STATEMENTS OF CONGAGRICOLTURA.

2. ANDREOTTI STRESSED DESIRABILITY TO NOT OVERPLAY NEED OF ONLY ECONOMIC UNITY IN EUROPE BUT PAY DUE ATTENTION TO HUMAN FACTOR AND MORAL ASPECT REGARDING NEEDED STABILITY AND DECENCY (WHICH STILL PREVAILED IN RURAL AREAS). SO DOING ANDREOTTI NO DOUBT ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THOSE ITALIANS FROM ULTRA LEFT AND RIGHT FLANKS WHO NOWADAYS ATTEMPT TO UNDERCUT CONFIDENCE IN ITALIAN DEMOCRACY. ADDRESSING HIMSELF SPECIFICALLY TO AGRICULTURE ANDREOTTI MENTIONED HOW MEDICI AND HE HAD BEEN CRITICALLY QUESTIONED WHILE IN WASHINGTON, DC, BY SENATE OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON CAP/ EC AND HOW HE HAD WITNESSED HIGH MEAT PRICES PRESENTLY BEING A WORLD- WIDE PHENOMENON, THEREBY URGING REBELIOUS CONSUMERS

TO SEE THEIR PLIGHT IN THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE AND NOT JUST BLAME GOI. ANDREOTTI ANNOUNCED THAT GOI IS ENGAGED IN STUDY HOW TO CONTAIN FOOD PRICES IN ORDER TO CURB INFLATIONARY FORCES. ITALY'S PRESENT TOTAL IMPORTS OF FOOD PRODUCTS HAVE CLIMBED TO A VALUE OF AROUND \$200 MILLION/ MONTH. ANDREOTTI DESCRIBED ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT CHANGES IN ITALY'S POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS, THE DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER TO REGIONS, BUT STRESSED NEED FOR CONFIDENCE OF POPULATION IN FINAL OUTCOME OF THIS DARING INCENTIVE TO BENEFIT OF NATION AND OF WHOLE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

3. AGMIN NATALI WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM AGRICULTURAL MARATHON MEETINGS IN LUXEMBOURG AIRED AS HIS OPINION THAT FINAL OUTCOME MEETING WAS NOT SO BAD TAKING ALL FACTORS INTO CONSIDERATION. ITALY HAD ACHIEVED ITS GOALS AS TO OLIVE OIL, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, AID TO HILL FARMING AND DEPRIVED AREAS IN GENERAL IN LINKING FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON MEDITERRANEAN POLICIES TO ITALY'S SPECIFIC AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS. THE FACT THAT THE AGMINS COULD RETURN HOME WITH ANY AGREEMENT - SAID NATALI - WAS IN ITSELF GRATIFYING AS AN EXPRESSION OF WILL TO CONTINUE A CAP AND AVOIDING THE ACCUSATION THAT A POLITICAL CRISIS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY HAD BEEN GENERATED BY THE FARM PRICE ISSUE.

HE STRESSED THAT FUTURE ACTIONS AS TO RESTRUCTURING OF AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED MORE IMPORTANT THAN PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS. THE PRICE CHANGES AGREED UPON IN LUXEMBOURG SHOULD NOT CAUSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIGHER CONSUMER PRICES WHICH ALREADY FOR SOME TIME HAVE BEEN ABOVE ORIENTATION PRICES. NATALI CRITICIZED BUREAUCRALIZATION OF FEOGA ADMINISTRATION WHICH HE ACCUSED OF HAVING BECOME AN END IN ITSELF. GOI HAS CREATED COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE USE FEOGA FUNDS. ONLY ITALY HAD BROUGHT FORWARD A WORKABLE RESTRUCTURING PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY WHILE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ORIGINAL

SIX HAD DOVETAILED THEIR PROPOSALS TO THEIR OWN SPECIFIC ADVANTAGE.

4. SPEECHES WERE WELL RECEIVED BY AUDIENCE. REACTION TO ANDRE-OTTI'S REMARKS AIMED AT LAW AND ORDER WERE WARMLY APPLAUDED. VOLPE

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